CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1   1. A computerized method comprising:

2   accessing a user-definable preferences list that identifies a plurality of channels

3 from a plurality of different sources; and

4   selecting one of the plurality of identified channels for provision to a user.

1   2. The computerized method of claim 1, further comprising:

2   providing, to the user, one or more of audio and video from a source

3 corresponding to the selected one of the plurality of identified channels.

1   3. The computerized method of claim 1, further comprising:

2   accessing, to determine a component corresponding to the selected one of the

3 plurality of identified channels, a programming guide database that is independent of the

4 user-definable preferences list; and

5   sending a signal to the component to provide the selected channel.

1   4. The computerized method of claim 1, further comprising:

2   receiving a user request to provide a new channel; and

3   wherein the accessing and the selecting are performed in response to the user

4 request.

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1　5.　The computerized method of claim 4, further comprising:

2　　　repeating the accessing and selecting in response to subsequent user requests to

3　provide a new channel.

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1　6.　An article comprising:

2　　　a storage medium; and

3　　　the storage medium having stored thereon a plurality of instructions that, when

4　executed by a processor, result in accessing a user-definable preferences list that

5　identifies a plurality of identified channels from a plurality of different sources, and

6　selecting one of the plurality of channels for provision to a user.

1　7.　The article of claim 6, wherein the plurality of instructions, when executed by the

2　processor, further result in providing, to the user, one or more of audio and video from a

3　source corresponding to the selected one of the plurality of identified channels.

1　8.　The article of claim 6, wherein the plurality of instructions, when executed by the

2　processor, further result in accessing, to determine a component corresponding to the

3　selected one of the plurality of identified channels, a programming guide database that is

4　independent of the user-definable preferences list, and sending a signal to the component

5　to provide the selected channel.

1   9.   The article of claim 6, wherein the plurality of instructions, when executed by the

2   processor, further result in receiving a user request to provide a new channel, wherein the

3   accessing and the selecting are performed in response to the user request.

1   10.   The article of claim 9, wherein the plurality of instructions, when executed by the

2   processor, further result in repeating the accessing and selecting in response to subsequent

3   user requests to provide a new channel.

1   11.   An apparatus comprising:

2   a storage device to store a user-definable preferences list that identifies a plurality

3   of channels from a plurality of different sources; and

4   a channel selection controller, coupled to the storage device, to access the user-

5   definable preferences list and select one of the plurality of identified channels for

6   provision to a user.

1   12.   The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising:

2   a component controller coupled to the channel selection controller;

3   wherein the channel selection control is to send the selected one of the plurality of

4   identified channels to the component controller, and wherein the component controller is

5   to tune a corresponding component to provide, to the user, one or more of audio and

6   video from a source corresponding to the selected one of the plurality of identified

7   channels.

1   13.   The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the channel selection controller is further to:

2   access, to determine a component corresponding to the selected one of the

3   plurality of channels, a programming guide database that is independent of the user-

4   definable preferences list; and

5   send a signal to the component to provide the selected channel.

1   14.   The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the channel selection controller is further to:

2   receive a user request to provide a new channel; and

3   wherein the accessing and the selecting are performed in response to the user

4   request.

1   15.   The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the channel selection controller is further to

2   repeat the accessing and selecting in response to subsequent user requests to provide a

3   new channel.

1   16.   An apparatus comprising:

2   means for storing a user-definable preferences list that identifies a plurality of

3   channels from a plurality of different sources; and

4   means, coupled to the storage device, for accessing the user-definable preferences

5   list and selecting one of the plurality of identified channels for provision to a user.

1   17.   The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising:

2   means, coupled to the means for accessing and selecting, for controlling

3   components in an entertainment system; and

4   wherein the means for accessing and selecting is for sending the selected one of

5   the plurality of identified channels to the means for controlling, and wherein the means

6   for controlling is for tuning a corresponding component of the entertainment system to

7   provide, to the user, one or more of audio and video from a source corresponding to the

8   selected one of the plurality of identified channels.

1   18.   The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the means for accessing and selecting

2   includes:

3   means for accessing, to determine a component corresponding to the selected one

4   of the plurality of identified channels, a programming guide database that is independent

5   of the user-definable preferences list; and

6   means for send a signal to the component to provide the selected channel.

1   19.   The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the means for accessing and selecting

2   includes:

3   means for receiving a user request to provide a new channel; and

4   wherein the accessing and the selecting are performed in response to the user

5   request.

1   20.   The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the means for accessing and selecting includes

2   means for repeating the accessing and selecting in response to subsequent user requests to

3   provide a new channel.

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